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A Faithful and True

HISTORY

OF THE

Life and Actions

OF

K. JOHN.

THIS *John*, before he was King, being at the Head of a Large Army in the Field, with a great many Servants and Followers, entertain'd them generally with Promiſes of Large Rewards, and thereby had the Advantages of Time, Power, and Opinion to help him on to his Deſigns. So came *John* to the Government, which he Manag'd with as great Injuſtice as he got it, and Imbarqu'd the State and Himſelf in thoſe Miſerable Incumbrances, thro' his Violence and Oppreſſions, as produc'd Deſperate Effects, and made way for thoſe great Alterations in the Government, which followed; For he Engaged the Nation in a War with the King of *France*, with whom, at laſt, he Mediated a Parley. The *French* King offered him Peace; but *John* not liking the Conditions, Pocketed it, and ſo they fell to the Sword; Upon which *John* goes over into *Normandy*, but having made Attempts to no Purpoſe; tho' with ſome *Little Gain*, he Returns to give as *Little Contentment*, into *England*, where he Impoſes *Four Shillings* upon every *Plough-Land*: And ſhortly after, making a Progreſs with his Wife *Iſabel*, Exacted Great Fines of Offenders in his Forreſts. Being thus Stock'd with Money, and finding he wanted Recruits for the next Campaign, he Summon'd the *Earls* and *Barons* of *England* to be Ready with *Horſe* and *Armour* to Paſs the Seas with him preſently, upon *Whitſuntide*; but they holding a Conference together, by a General Conſent, ſent him Word, that unleſs he would Render them their *Rights* and *Liberties*, they would not attend him out of the Kingdom. The *Nobility* thus withdrawing, who Refus'd to Aid or Attend him, he was much Enrag'd; And ſeeing no other Remedy, he ſpeedily ſends for ſome of the *Biſhops*, Promiſing them Preſent Satisfaction. He went forth to Meet them, and on his *Knees* with *Tears*, receives them, beſeeching them to have Compaſſion on *Him*, and the *Kingdom* of *England*, and Swears upon the *Evangeliſts*, to Love, Defend, and Maintain the *Holy Church*, and the *Miniſters* thereof againſt their *Adverſaries*, to the utmoſt of his Power. But *John* being looſe from the Doing (which he pretended to be by Force) Unlooſed the *Dead*: And the Occaſion began about the Election of a *Great Dignitary* in the *Church*. *Hubert* being dead, the *Monks* of the *Convent* pitch'd upon one *Reginald*, their Superior; Apprehending by their Antient Privileges, that one ſhould be Choſen out of their *Own Body*. But *John* Nominated to them one *John Gray*, whom he eſpecially Favour'd, and perſwaded them upon *Great Promiſes* of their *Good*, to be Content with. And ſo after much Debate, was *John Gray* Advanced to the Chair.

John continuing in theſe *Irregularities*, the *Clergy* and *Layety*, who now ſeeing their *Subſtances* thus Conſumed without *Succeſs*, and likely ever to be made liable to Deſperate Courſes, began to Caſt——— for the Recovery of their Antient Immunities, and to Eaſe themſelves of their Burthens, Indirectly Laid upon them. King *John* ſeeing himſelf, in a manner *Forſaken*, having ſcarce Seven *Knights* Faithful unto him, fell into *Extream Grief*, upon which a *Burning Feaver* took him, and he departed this Life. Howſoever his *Death* takes not away the *Reproach* of his *Life*, nor the *Infamy* that follows *Him*.

AN EPITAPH.

HEre Lies within this Holy Place,
(The Lord have Mercy on him.)
A Weezle *in a Wooden Caſe,*
Exempt from Humane Plagues unleſs
You lay his Wife upon him.

Some People think if that were done,
Tho' Dead, he wou'd be ready,
To riſe before his Time and Run,
The Lord knows where again to ſhun,
That Termegant his Lady.

Since He is gone, 'tis hard, that ſhe
Should be ſo long Deſerted.
Why Death, ſhouldſt Thou ſo Partial be?
Since all Good People do Agree,
'Tis Pity they are Parted.

Pray bid Her when ſhe comes not Prate,
But ceaſe her Teazing Nonſenſe:
For if the Weezle *Smell a Rat,*
He'll fly his Wife (I'll tell you that)
As once he did his Conſcience.

FINIS.

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